

House Resolution No. 807

Whereas, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives were truly saddened by the death of Colonel Clifton W. Gates of Saint Louis, Missouri, on December 12, 2007, at the age of eighty-four; and

Whereas, Colonel Clifton Gates was born on August 13, 1923, in Moscow, Arkansas, and as a youth he moved with his family to Saint Louis where sixty years ago he married the former Harriet Craddock; and

Whereas, Colonel Clifton Gates was the first African American to be appointed to the Saint Louis City Board of Police Commissioners and the first to become its vice president; and

Whereas, Colonel Clifton Gates was a realtor who founded Gates Realty Investment Company and the National Assurance Agency; helped lead Mid-Central Mortgage and Metro-Cable-Installed Cable; invested in the Renaissance Grand Hotel, Union Plaza, and Admiral; served as director of the Pride of Saint Louis Redevelopment Corporation that built Gateway Mall in downtown Saint Louis; and established Lismark Distributing Company, which made the Black Enterprise Magazine list of the nation's largest black-owned businesses; and

Whereas, Colonel Clifton Gates also helped found and lead Gateway National Bank, which became the first black-owned-and-operated bank in the state of Missouri when it opened in 1965; and

Whereas, Colonel Clifton Gates served on countless professional and civic boards, including the Urban League of Metropolitan Saint Louis, Missouri State Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, Municipal Opera, Forest Park Forever, Saint Louis Branch National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Saint Louis Art Museum, Saint Louis Zoo, Saint Louis Housing Authority, Saint Louis Ambassadors, Saint Louis Airport Authority, and Boy Scouts of Greater Saint Louis; and

Whereas, no stranger to honors and accolades, Colonel Clifton Gates earned Distributor of the Year and regional Distributor of the Year awards from the United States Department of Commerce, a Management Award from the Labor and Management Committee, a Public Service Award from Saint Louis Argus, and an honorary Doctorate from Harris Stowe State University; and

Whereas, the late Colonel Clifton Gates is survived by his wife; children, Lisa Gates Norwood and Mark Gates; granddaughter, Talor Norwood; son-in-law, Ken Norwood; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins, including Saint Louis City License Collector Michael McMillan:

Now, therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-fourth General Assembly, join unanimously to memorialize the life and work of Colonel Clifton Gates and to convey this legislative body's most heartfelt condolences to his family members, colleagues, friends, and neighbors who now miss his considerable strength, warmth, and light in their daily lives; and

Be it further resolved that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution in memory of Colonel Clifton W. Gates of Saint Louis, Missouri.

Offered by _____
Representative Rodney R. Hubbard
District No. 58

Representative Talibdin El-Amin
District No. 57

Offered by _____
Representative Jamilah Nasheed
District No. 60

I, Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House of Representatives,
Ninety-fourth General Assembly, Second Regular Session,
do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House
Resolution No. 807, adopted February 25, 2008.

Rod Jetton, Speaker